CALPEEK

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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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FORMER CRP CHAIRS TO SPONSOR INITIATIVE TO REFORM GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION PROCESS.

Editor's note: With Gov. Pete Wilson having just announced the formation of his exploratory presidential committee (he's running), 3 former Calif. Republican Party chairmen are moving ahead with their plans for an initiative drive to change the CA Constitution --- to end the automatic succession of the Lt. Governor to become Governor. Here's our update & analysis...

...The 3 former CRP chairs are Mike Montgomery, Dr. Tirso del Junco and Frank Visco. This trio has formed *Californians For The Right To Vote*, HQed in Newport Beach. ☎ (714)476-9064. Butcher, Forde & Mollrich, the GOP consulting firm, has been hired to manage the initiative. Montgomery will serve as campaign spokesperson...

...Make no mistake, this measure, which the trio hopes to place on the November '96 ballot, is aimed right at current Demo LG Gray Davis, who is not an especially happy camper with the recent announcement of this proposal. Davis COS Garry South faxed out a whole string of newspaper editorials which bashed this idea and urged Wilson not to run for President. The editorials appeared in the Oakland Tribune (Don't Mess With the Constitution); S.F. Chronicle (Wilson's Deceit); the Sacto BEE (The Gray Davis Amendment); and the San Diego Union-Tribune (Don't Do It, Pete)...

...Sources are quick to note that while under this plan Davis would not automatically become governor if a vacancy occurred, there is nothing in this plan to stop him from entering the special election to replace CA's top executive. And at this point, Davis might be considered a favorite, if there were a vacancy, because of his job title, his fundraising skills and his name ID...

...But this new proposal is not a done deal as yet and there is a long way to go. To qualify a constitutional amendment will cost about $1 million, and money is very tight these days. Next comes the language. That's not cast in stone either and there are some key critical questions which have to be answered, such as: 1) will the special election be like a legislative special, with cross-over party voting, or will there be a partisan primary, just like any other statewide election? 2) will Prop. 73 contribution laws apply to this special???

...Bottomline: this will not be an especially easy initiative to qualify or pass. Opponents, and there are GOPers as well as Demos who are opposed to changing the CA Constitution, will argue that this effort smells of raw politics and is not good public policy. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTIONS: 8 CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

Editor's note: In addition to council elections, voters in the City of Los Angeles will have to decide the fate of 8 changes to the City's Charter. Here's a brief update...

...Knowing that it was going to be difficult to find the money to support 8 different charter amendments, the powers at L.A. City Hall (read that as L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and many of his top commissioners, appointees, political advisors, as well as his allies on the city council) decided to pool their resources under the banner of ***Citizens To Turn L.A. Around***. The name has a familiar ring (Riordan's '93 campaign book was called "Turning L.A. Around"), but so what. The big question is how much money this committee will be able to raise??? The fundraising goal is $500,000. Sounds optimistic, but maybe they'll raise it...

...And make no mistake, in a low profile, anticipated low voter turnout election on April 11th, getting the message out is the key. The cmt. has hired a trio of

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campaign pros to handle the 8 measures. Rick Taylor is in charge of media; Steve Afriat is handling grass-roots support & organization; and Alice Borden is in charge of fundraising. No TV, but slates, direct mail and some ethnic radio ads are planned...

...In addition to Mayor Riordan, the other big cmts. names include former Mayor Tom Bradley; City Controller Rick Tuttle; County Supes Yvonne Burke, Zev Yaroslavsky and Deane Dana; LAPD Chief Willie Williams; as well as Councilmembers Alatorre, Braude, Chick, Ferraro, Galanter, Goldberg, Hernandez, Ridley-Thomas, Svorinich and Wachs. Among the non-elected cmt. members are Bill & Kim Wardlaw; attorney Gilbert Ray; Warner Bros. executive Dan Garcia; businessman Bert Boeckmann; Stan Hirsh; UTLA Pres. Helen Bernstein; and District Council of Carpenters Sec./Tres. Doug McCarron --- to name but a few...

...What's of interest here is that 4 councilmembers are MIAs and NOT part of the team. They include Nate Holden, Richard Alarcon, Rita Walters and Hal Bernson. Sources say Alarcon has questions on Charter Amend. #5, while Bernson has problems with #3. No response from Walters. Holden is a leading opponent of Charter Amend. #2, the *crown jewel* of the 8 charter measures. If approved, 38 general mgrs. of city departments would lose their civil service protection, making it easier to hire & fire these city executives. This is the easiest of the 8 measures to understand, but might be the most difficult to pass. But Holden seems to be the only vocal opponent and Mayor Riordan has gone out on a political limb by predicting that this time, #2 will win voter approval, despite the fact similar measures have lost 5 times before. Very risky and CALPEEK rates #2 no better than a toss up...

...Of the other measures, #4, #5, #6 and #7 are clean-up bills, bringing the city into compliance with IRS codes. Charter Amend. #3 calls for the appointment of an "Inspector General" to deal with complaints against the LAPD. The IG would be independent of the LAPD, but would work with the City Police Commission. The IG idea comes from the Christopher Commission Report. Charter Amend. #1 calls for the reform of the city's outdated purchasing procedures. If approved, it's estimated that $34 million can be saved annually. And finally, Charter Amend. #8 is a funding measure to separate LAX from Ontario Inter'l --- so that they can do independent bond measures. Stay tuned...

FIELD ALREADY FORMING FOR 72nd A.D. SPECIAL.

GOP Assemblyman Ross Johnson of Fullerton or Irvine (depending on how you feel) hasn't even resigned from office yet (after winning the 35th S.D. special primary to replace Marian Bergeson) and already there are 3 Republican hopefuls scouting the turf for what could be a very exciting special election. The 3 names to surface are former Fullerton Mayor Dick Ackerman, who has already hired consultant Dave Gilliard & Assoc. to run his campaign; Brett Barbre, a top AA to former Congressman Bill Dannemeyer; and Yorba Linda Councilwoman Barbara Kiley, who played a key role in the Yes on Prop. 187 campaign. FYI: Ackerman claims to have already picked up the endorsement of U.S. Ed Royce(R-Fullerton). Stay tuned....

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: CONTIGENCY FEE GETS OK

Editor's note: Here's a brief update on a new ballot measure which have been given the okay to begin collecting signatures...

- **"Attorneys' Contingency Fees. Limits,"** is the official title of an initiative statute by proponents Bill Zimmerman, Michael Johnson and Bill Westermeyer, all of the Alliance to Revitalize Calif. This measure, if approved, would cap the fees that plaintiff lawyers can charge, based on the amount of recovery (contingent fees) in personal injury, wrongful death and other tort cases. The proponents have until Aug. 11 to submit 433,269 valid signatures. The Alliance can be reached at (310)449-5390. Stay tuned...

HORCHER RECALL UPDATE: GOP POWER BROKERS DO AN ABOUT FACE. RECALL CMT. STILL RUNNING.

Editor's note: In last week's CALPEEK, we said that the umbrella Horcher Recall Cmt. had been ***dismantled***. A premature obit on CALPEEK's part. Here is our brief update...

...The bills run up by the Horcher Recall Cmt. are now being paid, thanks to the CRP and Gov. Pete Wilson; AND an absentee ballot application from the official recall cmt. was mailed to 60th A.D. voters on Mar. 16th, urging a recall of maverick Assemblyman Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar, who bolted the GOP on Dec. 5th when he voted for Willie Brown(D) over Jim Brulte (R) for Speaker of the Assembly...

...Why the apparent change in direction? Some GOP

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sources are saying there never was an intent to dismantle the umbrella committee, but other GOP sources aren't buying that spin. The basic feeling, according to CALPEEK sources, was that Gov. Wilson and the CA Republican Party could not afford to let the recall get lost in the battle between top GOP rivals Gary Miller and Barbara Stone -- thus endangering the recall. And with 60th A.D. GOP voters taking sides, the battle between Stone & Miller might get nasty. Thus there was a need to keep an independent, umbrella committee going --- to keep the focus on Horcher. Stay tuned...

59th A.D. SPECIAL UPDATE: NOT MUCH ACTIVITY.
Editor's note: As one source told CALPEEK, "It's very quiet over here. Like there's nothing going on." And yet in two weeks, on April 11, there will be a special to pick a successor to Richard Mountjoy(R-Arcadia), now serving in the State Senate. Here is a brief CALPEEK update...

...The key to most special elections these days are absentee ballots. But as far as CALPEEK can determine, there is only one candidate who is really pushing this: Arcadia Councilman Bob Margett, a top tier GOP candidate who has been endorsed by Mountjoy. According to Margett's consultant, the savvy Bob Gouty, their campaign has mailed 4 AV applications so far, and a 5th will hit by the time CALPEEK goes to press...

...Accoridng to the L.A. Co. Registrar, 4,787 applications for AV ballot were received as of 3/20. Of this number, about 670 are permanent absentee ballot voters. All of the sample ballots, which contains an AV application on the back page, were mailed by 3/21...

...The other top tier candidate, Duarte Councilwoman Ginny Joyce, has mailed one piece. GOP consultant Steve Presson has a 2nd mailer in the works. The main problem for Joyce, as well as the other 7 GOP candidates, is that trying to play catch-up with Margett is an expensive proposition --- and money is very tight. Stay tuned...

VICA TO HONOR WARNER BROS. AT APR. 6 DINNER.
The Valley Industry & Commerce Assn.(VICA) will honor Warner Bros. with its 1995 "Robert E. Gibson Corporate Award of Excellence," 7:30 p.m., April 6, VICA's annual award dinner, Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City. For info ☎ (818)888-2228...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.
Editor's note: Here's another update on who's in and who's out for House & Legislative races in 1996...

☒ **67th A.D.** - GOP Assemblywoman Doris Allen of Cypress is *termed out* in '96. At least 5 names have surfaced in connection with this Orange Co. seat in '96. They include Westminster Mayor Charles V. Smith; Fountain Valley Councilwoman Laurann Cook; Allied Business PAC exec. director Danielle Madison; '94 O.C. sup candidate/businesswoman Haydee Tillotson; and Cypress Councilwoman Cecilia L. Age...

☒ **71st A.D.** - Another Orange Co. battle is taking shape for Mickey Conroy's seat. Conroy is *termed out* in '96. Vying for the Conroy seat are former City of Orange Mayor Jim Beam and school board member Frank Ury, a strong supporter of school vouchers and Prop. 174...

☒ **1st A.D.** - Way up north, Demo Dan Hauser is *termed out* in '96. Only a few names have surfaced so far among Demos. They include businesswoman/CDP Rural County Caucus chair Karen Scott, who ran against Hauser in '94; Demo activist Brian Parker; and former Humboldt Co. Sup. Wesley Chesbro of Arcata...

FULL METAL JACKET: PERMITS AND POLITICS.
Editor's note: States across the country are in the process of passing bills to make it easier for "law abiding citizens" to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons(CCW). Here is CALPEEK's status report...

..There are at least 3 bills making their way in the CA Legislature that concern CCW laws:

- AB 53 by Willard Murray(D-L.A.) shifts to the CA Dept. of Consumer Affairs the authority to issue CCW permits to security peronnel (read that as PIs & bodyguards) licensed by the DCA. Even though the bill is supported by the NRA and rank & file cop groups, none of the GOP members on the Assembly Consumer Protection Cmt. voted for the bill. Republicans on this cmt. could be in hot water with the NRA, who view the vote as an invite to police chiefs & sheriffs to stonewall on CCW permits. AB 53 gets another hearing next month...

- SB 43 by Sen. Pat Johnston(D-Stockton) bans police chiefs from issuing CCW permits to people who

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live outside their jurisdictions. Ditto for sheriffs. The bill is now on the Senate floor awaiting a vote. Police chiefs & sheriffs support; the NRA is opposed...

● SB 74 by Sen. Bill Leonard(R-Upland) is viewed as a responsible CCW reform bill. The bill says that people who have a *good cause* may be issued a CCW permit. *Good cause* is defined in Leonard's bill. In addition, it has weapons training requirements and hikes the penalty for carrying concealed weapons without a permit. At a recent Senate Criminal Procedure Cmt. hearing, supporters of the *status quo* were somewhat unnerved when Demo Dan Boatwright and Indep. Quentin Kopp said they were inclined to support SB 74. Still, SB 74 may not have enough votes because of GOP Senators Tom Campbell and Bob Beverly. It's not known what these two may do on this bill when it comes up before this committee again on April 4th...

...FYI: Handgun Control, Inc. has some explaining to do. According to CALPEEK sources, in Oregon HCI is sponsoring a CCW bill similar to SB 74. But in Calif. HCI opposes SB 74. What's going on??? Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

♦ **$$ Problems for GOP Convention?** - San Diego Mayor Susan Golding and the city's host committee pledged $16 million to the RNC to hold Aug. 12-16, 1996 GOP Presidential Convention in CA's 2nd largest city. But with Gov. Pete Wilson now running for the White House, some CALPEEK sources think that lots of money that was supposed to go to the host committee will now be going to Pete. If this happens, it could put host cmt. chair Gerald "Gerry" Parsky and Golding in a very tight spot...

♦ **CCRI Opens Campaign HQ** - CCRI (CA Civil Rights Initiative) co-authors Glynn Custred & Tom Wood have opened an official campaign "operations" center. Joe Gelmen will serve as cmp. mgr. and will oversee daily operations. The CCRI mailing address is P.O. Box 67C17, Los Angeles, CA 90067. ☎ is (310)286-2274. ☜ is (310)286-7041...

♦ **Orange Co. Update** - Unless you've been living on Mars, you've heard that the Orange Co. Supes have appointed John Moorlach as the new County Treasurer. For those who have been on Mars, he's the guy who claimed during last year's election that Robert Citron's investment policies would cause a disaster --- but few listened. And come Mar. 28th, citizen activists will storm the Board meeting, urging county supes NOT to place a 1/2 cent sales tax measure on a June 27th special election ballot. If supes do vote to place this measure on the ballot (it will be known as Measure R), look for the Committees of Correspondence to go absolutely nuts and launch recalls against many of the supes. FYI: An interesting story in the March '95 issue of American Journalism Review by former O.C. Register staffer Susan Paterno. The article is called, "When the Watchdogs Don't Bark." And it rips the Register & L.A. Times...

♦ **Legal Update** - GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte, as well as new GOP Assemblyman Steven Kuykendall of Rancho Palos Verdes, were officially served Mar. 16th, naming them in a $125,000 lawsuit (plus attorney's fees) filed by Bill Press (as an individual, but he's also chair of the CDP). Press accuses the GOPers of not properly reporting a $125,000 donation that Kuykendall received from Philip Morris USA. The suit is now in the "discovery" stage. Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk represent Brulte/Kuykendall, while Olson, Hagel, Fong, et al represent Press...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Rachel Polish has been hired as a research analyst in the San Diego office of Decision Research...

● Paul Growald, a cable TV executive, and Dian M. Grueneich, head of an energy policy consulting firm, have been elected to the Board of the CA League of Conservation Voters...

● L.A.-based political consultant Joy Howell has been elected as one of 54 So. Calif. delegates to represent the State at the White House Conf. on Small Business, June 11-15...

● The Sacto-based law firm of Wilke, Fleury, Hoffelt et al has hired Michael G. Polis and Matthew J. Smith as associate attorneys in the firm...

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